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We could not avoid thinking that there was a meaning in the action here described, significant of an established protective habit, especially considering the decided changes of plumage assumed by this species at different seasons of the year. — HENRY GILLMAN.

SHELLS OF KERGUELEN ISLAND. — The naturalists connected with the Transit of Venus Expedition have begun to make their reports.

In the report of Dr. J. H. Kidder, of the Kerguelen station, now in press, Mr. W. H. Dall contributes a list of the mollusca collected, describing three new genera. One of these was described in a late number of the *Annals and Mag. Nat. Hist.* by Mr. E. A. Smith, of the British Museum, under the name *Eatonia,* long since preoccupied by Hall for a genus of brachiopoda. For this Mr. Dall substitutes *Eatoniella.* Mr. Dall also describes a genus allied to *Ceropsis* of the *Carditidæ,* but smooth and without lateral teeth, and with a semi-internal ligament, giving it the name *Kidderia,* in honor of the naturalist of the expedition. Dr. P. P. Carpenter also describes a new genus of chitons, with the anterior and posterior valves marginate, but not slit, and the other valves without a margin. This genus, intermediate between *Hanleia* and the articulate chitons, he calls *Hemiarthrum.*

ANTHROPOLOGY.

JASPER WAR-CLUB TEETH. — In the sixth volume of the NATURALIST, page 157, fig. 24, I described a large flint implement as a hatchet. Such specimens I have since been led to consider as teeth, if I may so call them, of war-clubs; the handles of which were frequently the femora of the elk and bison. This form may be briefly described as obtusely pointed, short, and broad jasper implements; evenly chipped to a well-defined edge. Average-sized specimens measure about three to four inches in length, by two and a half to three in breadth. While the chipping is not as fine as in arrow and spear points, it is certain that the majority, at least, are finished implements, as suggested by the author of Flint Chips (p. 439), and not merely "blocked out" masses of jasper, to be subsequently worked into spear-heads and similar forms (see Rau on Agricultural Implements, Smithsonian Annual Report, 1868, p. 401). Besides these finished specimens, I have found that the larger flint implements, which I have considered to be either "lance-heads" (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. of Philadelphia, 1860, p. 278) or agricultural implements when blunt and broad, and weapons when narrower and pointed, in vol. vi. of this journal, page 155, fig. 22, — that these, when broken in half, were subsequently utilized as I have suggested, just as broken arrow-heads were occasionally made available, by conversion into scrapers (see this journal, vii. 500), except that in the latter instance the base of the broken implement was used, and in the former, the pointed or upper half. My reason for considering them as the teeth of war-clubs is that the point, although blunt, is well defined, and the edges equally so, and that the implement as made was intended for penetration rather than cutting, but necessarily by the aid of a handle, inasmuch as the base has a roughly chipped edge, which would prevent its being used effectively if simply held in the hand. Certainly as a simple cutting implement or hatchet it would not have been pointed. This supposed use of these specimens, as described, is confirmed by the discovery lately of three specimens of such implements in Indian graves. Each of these chipped flints had evidently been inserted into long bones (femora) of some large mammal. The bones themselves had so nearly decayed that only minute fragments could be gathered, but the outline was distinguishable as the relic lay in the ground. Two of these specimens of flint teeth had evidently been wrought *de novo* from the mineral ; the other was as evidently the pointed half of a lance-head, or hoe, the base being a single surface, showing that the specimen had there been broken directly in two. Somewhat confirmatory also of this view of the use of such relics is the fact that of the broken specimens of "lance-heads" found lying on the surface of the ground, the vast majority are the bases; the points having been gathered and utilized, I believe, in the manner suggested. War-clubs of wood, armed with a metal tooth, are now seen among the Indians. Catlin, in his North American Indians, vol. ii., plate 150, figures such an one, and frequently refers to them throughout that work. Prior to the introduction of metals, war-clubs were of course common, but armed with stone instead of iron. The jasper implements above described, I doubt not, were the forerunners of the metal teeth of the modern club. — CHARLES C. ABBOTT, M. D.

OPENING OF A ROYAL BURIAL MOUND IN DENMARK. — The Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries at Copenhagen has recently published a beautifully illustrated folio volume containing a description of a royal burial mound or barrow, with translations of the Runic inscriptions on stones, at Jellinge, of the time of the royal pair, Gorm and Thyra.

GEOLOGY AND PALÆONTOLOGY.

THE EARLIEST EDENTATES (SLOTHS). — The earliest sloths hitherto known have occurred in the Miocene Tertiary. Professor Gaudry has recently announced to the French Academy traces of the existence of edentate mammals at the beginning of the Miocene epoch. The remains consist of a first phalanx and an ungueal phalanx, which seem to come from the same finger. He places this new animal in the genus *Ancylotherium*, with the specific name of *priscus*. The fossils have been found in the same bed, suggesting that the edentate in question has lived at the time of the lower Miocene as well as at the last phase of the Eocene.

A FOSSIL SIRENIAN ANIMAL IN JAMAICA. — The former existence, in Jamaica of an animal of this group, rather smaller than the manatee is indicated by the skull and atlas vertebra, described by Professor Owen